

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

The California Highway Patrol is a law enforcement and traffic safety agency reporting to Business, Transportation and Housing Agency Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet and Governor Gray Davis.



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CHP TARGETS SAFETY BELT HOLDOUTS OVER MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) will have their ticket books out over Memorial Day weekend for the last 9 percent of motorists in the state who refuse to buckle up when they drive, said Commissioner D.O. “Spike” Helmick.

“We have a good record of safety belt use in California – over 90 percent. But that last 9 percent represents half the vehicle occupants killed,” Helmick said.

The Memorial Day holiday weekend is a maximum enforcement period for the CHP. All available officers will be out in force. A primary focus of the weekend’s enforcement will be motorists who don’t buckle up or fail to secure their children, Helmick said.

Motorists who neglect to wear their safety belts often are driving to the mall or other local destination. “There’s no trip that’s too short for a safety belt. A collision can be deadly whether it’s on a short drive to a Memorial Day barbecue or a long journey on the interstate,” Helmick said.

Children are especially vulnerable to death and injury when they aren’t properly secured. “The worst duty an officer can perform is to tell a family that a child has died in a crash. Keep youngsters safe by buckling them in a safety or booster seat,” he said.

“Now that summer is nearly here, get in the habit of securing your child every time you drive,” Helmick said.

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